UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/847
11 September 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 10 September 1998 from Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of Angola, with the request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-26576 (E) 110998

/...

Annex

Letter dated 10 September 1998 from the President of the Republic of Angola addressed to the Secretary-General

As you know, the peace process in Angola has been at a stalemate since the middle of this year, and there are no perspectives of resolving the impasse it now faces because of the deliberate and obstructionist attitude of Mr. Jonas Savimbi, who refuses to comply with the Final Provisions of the Lusaka Protocol, which would put an end to the cycle of war and instability under which Angola has been suffering for several years.

All the efforts made to convince Mr. Savimbi to cooperate with the Government and the international community have yielded no results, nor have all the pressures place upon him by the international community and, in particular, by the Security Council.

For the Angolan people, the evidence clearly demonstrates that Mr. Jonas Savimbi never really adhered to the Lusaka Protocol. It was convenient for him to give the impression that he respected it so as to gain the time he needed to reorganize and equip his military forces.

Mr. Savimbi has already attained this objective and, hence, he has assumed the same attitude that he demonstrated after the multi-party elections held in Angola in 1992.

Mr. Savimbi has again launched a military campaign all over the national territory and has hardened his positions against the Angolan Government, the Troika of Observers and the United Nations themselves. This is an unequivocal demonstration that he no longer considers the Lusaka Protocol a valid instrument for the establishment of peace in Angola.

The Government and the Angolan people have no doubt about this and do not at all believe that diplomatic means will now have any effect on Mr. Savimbi's current position.

Given the current Angolan situation, we do not believe it is prudent to again give Mr. Savimbi the benefit of the doubt. This would only lead to false expectations, and we would waste the time we need to take adequate steps.

Given the above-mentioned facts and after a careful analysis, the Government of Angola has decided to break its dialogue with Mr. Savimbi. His behaviour and practices have completely disqualified him as an interlocutor in the Angola peace process and have placed him outside the law.

I would like to inform you that the countries of southern Africa have reached the same conclusions as the Angolan Government and believe that Mr. Savimbi and his military forces are a serious and continuous threat to peace in the subregion as well as in Central Africa; therefore, it is necessary to unite means, actions and forces in the region so as to combat and neutralize the war machine of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA).

Fortunately, the positions of the Angolan Government on the question of peace in Angola coincide with those of a large group of UNITA political and military leaders, who have a profound knowledge of Mr. Savimbi's strategy. Their patriotism has led them to break away from their leader, whom they have removed from the leadership of the party. They have created a Renovation Committee that has provisionally assumed this mandate position until the party holds its Congress, to be scheduled this year.

The Renovation Committee has decided to assume the position of interlocutor with the Government, the Troika of Observers and your Special Representative in the peace process.

The Angolan Government has decided to recognize the UNITA Renovation Committee as the only legitimate interlocutor for the conclusion of the Lusaka Protocol.

I request that you not hesitate to support the positions of the Angolan Government and those of the UNITA Renovation Committee, for this is the only way to give the peace process a new thrust, capable of leading it to its conclusion.

I am sure that you and the members of the Security Council will understand the new political context in Angola, and I would like to request that you have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola